

## *NOAA In Your Territory*

# **American Samoa**

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*“NOAA’s science based work touches 300 million Americans daily, protecting lives and livelihoods. NOAA’s products and services are the result of the hard work of our dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the globe. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state or territory. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”*

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

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### *American Samoa*

#### *Coastal*

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [IOOS Regional Association](#)**

U.S. IOOS® is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system. The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) is one of these Regional Associations, creating an effective partnership of data providers and users working together to develop, disseminate, evaluate and apply new ocean data and information products designed specifically to address the needs of the communities, businesses and resources that call the Pacific home. The PacIOOS region is defined as the state of Hawaii, the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States in the Pacific and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Coastal Storms Program](#)**

The Coastal Storms Program five-year project in the Pacific Islands increased the resilience of Pacific Island communities. The effort resulted in products and services that improved weather forecasts, addressed climate impacts, provided risk and vulnerability assessments, and translated the information to remote communities through training. NOAA’s Pacific Office for Coastal Management and Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana was a part of this effort, which included the Hawaii Sea Grant and a small grants competition that supports local hazard resilience projects.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP is currently expanding their partnership and involvement in this territory.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Pacific Islands Environmental Response Management Application](#)**

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Pacific Islands ERMA® is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. Pacific Islands ERMA covers the Hawaiian Islands and outlying territories. It is primarily focused on impacts from coastal storms and marine debris, including data for the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami response.

**[Entire Territory](#)**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement Field Office](#)**

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only U.S. conservation enforcement agency that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws, international treaties, and regulations dedicated to protecting wildlife, and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement actions if there are violations. In addition, the Cooperative Enforcement Program gives OLE the ability to leverage its resources with the assistance of 27 coastal states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in supporting its Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support all the communities throughout the Pacific Islands. The American Samoa field office, located in Pago Pago, is part of the Office of Law Enforcement's Pacific Islands Division which is headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center](#)**

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation, and protection of living marine resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. The Pacific Islands Region includes the waters surrounding American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the Pacific Remote Island Areas. It is the largest geographic area within NMFS jurisdiction, with a U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone of more than 1.7 million square nautical miles of ocean. Using the tools provided by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, NMFS monitors and assesses fish stocks, promotes sustainable fisheries, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitats, and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, NMFS regulates and conducts research supporting the recovery of protected marine species. NMFS also co-manages four marine national monuments in the Pacific Islands Region: Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Regional Office staff in the American Samoa field office coordinate essential fish habitat reviews/consultations, oversee local fisheries Coral Reef Conservation Program efforts, participate in a wide variety of community partnerships, review local Army Corps of Engineer permit applications and conduct extensive fieldwork to support project reviews by providing local and technical expertise on habitat and protected resources. Staff also monitors activities of the U.S. purse seine fleet under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty and sample the catch of U.S. purse seiners to collect data that contributes to tuna stock assessments. The American Samoa observer program also operates out of this office and places observers on

longline fishery boats to obtain data on interactions with all protected species, record fish that are kept and discarded, and process selected specimen for life history information. Science Center field office staff administer scientific research and monitoring programs that support the domestic and international conservation and management of living marine resources. Staff provide logistical and coordination support for all science center research in the area and outreach support to the American Samoa Biological Sampling Program and the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument's science program.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Program](#)**

Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the American Samoa Department of Commerce's Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in American Samoa. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides the ASCMP with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure our coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#)**

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together multidisciplinary expertise from over 30 NOAA offices and partners. The goal is to protect, conserve and restore coral reef resources. In response to identified threats and management priorities developed by coral reef managers in American Samoa, NOAA invests in efforts to maintain and improve the status of fish stocks, improve coastal watershed quality, plan and mitigate the effects of global climate change, and promote collaboration between environmental agencies. Examples of projects in the territory include coastal use mapping for future marine protected area sites; developing and implementing a coral bleaching response plan; conducting baseline assessments in the Faga'alu watershed, a U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Watershed Partnership site; and supporting raingarden installation clinics reduce the impacts of land-based sources of pollution to nearshore coral reefs.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in the American Samoa. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in the American Samoa and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Seattle, Washington to support mariners and stakeholders in the Pacific Islands region.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by Department of Homeland security, the insurance industry, and energy sector, and many others. These and other federal, state and local governments, and private company sectors use the data daily to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine everyone's energy bill monthly. There are 15 COOP sites in the Territory.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards [Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are two NWR transmitters in the Territory.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Pacific Region [Headquarters](#)**

Located in the Mauka Tower of the Pacific Guardian Center in downtown Honolulu, HI, this regional office has administrative and management responsibilities for all National Weather Service field operations in Hawaii and the territories of American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These areas include offices in Honolulu, Hilo, Kahului, and Lihue, Hawaii; Guam; Pago Pago, American Samoa; Koror, Republic of Palau; Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Pohnpei, Yap and Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. The NWS Pacific Region operates its five Micronesian offices in cooperation with the Republic of the Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with the provisions of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and each Micronesian government. The five Micronesian Weather Service Offices provide the United States with critical Upper-Air Data and Aviation Weather Observations. These offices also provide adaptive weather forecasts and warnings to their local constituents. The Pacific Region Headquarters also oversees the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, and it hosts the International Tsunami Information Center.

### **[Pago Pago](#)**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in American Samoa, which provides data and information on tidal datums and relative mean sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge and tsunami warning. This station is located in Pago Pago and provides critical tsunami detection functionality for tsunami warning in the Pacific Basin. The station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

#### **National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Service Office](#)**

The area of responsibility of NWS Pago Pago Weather Service Office (WSO) is the Territory of American Samoa and adjacent territorial waters. The WSO conducts surface and upper air observing programs and provides a full suite of watch, warning, advisory, and forecast products for the general public and marine communities. WSO Pago Pago is also responsible for coordination of its meteorological products with the Meteorological Service in the Independent State of Samoa.

## *Utulei*

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa](#)**

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, formerly Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, celebrates the natural and cultural resources of American Samoa in the cradle of Polynesia's oldest culture. The sanctuary protects extensive coral reefs, deep water reefs, hydrothermal vent communities, rare marine archeological resources, and important fishing grounds. The sanctuary is the only true tropical reef within the National Marine Sanctuary System and the only sanctuary site south of the equator. It is co-managed by the American Samoa Government where together programs such as education, outreach, re-search, science, monitoring, ocean services training, community livelihoods, partnerships and resource protection are implemented. The Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center opened in August 2012 and has welcomed more than 16,000 visitors to date. The state-of-the-art facility features educational exhibits and interactive learning tools to promote ocean awareness and encourage good marine stewardship. It is the only NOAA office that has a visitor center in American Samoa.

## *Tutuila Island*

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Halocarbon Measurements](#)**

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) operates a sampling network to measure the distribution and trends of the gases most responsible for human-caused depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. Weekly samples are collected in high-pressure flasks at fixed locations. The air sample flasks are delivered to the ESRL laboratory, located in Boulder, CO for analysis. Some locations conduct continuous surface measurements on site. Halocarbon measurements help determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer - so it can protect us from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Ozone Measurements](#)**

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) conducts long-term monitoring of ozone at the surface, with aircraft, and with balloons, through cooperative relationships with local partners. The ESRL tropospheric ozone aircraft measurement program is being done in conjunction with the Carbon Cycle and Greenhouse Gas (CCGG) group's existing aircraft sampling network. Aircraft based in-situ tropospheric ozone measurements provide data relevant to: pollution events, lower atmosphere mixing dynamics, boundary layer stability, ozone trend studies, and the validity of other samples collected in-flight. Near ground level ozone is currently monitored using ultraviolet absorption photometers at eight sites that are generally representative of background conditions. These sites provide information on possible long-term changes in tropospheric ozone near the surface and support air quality research.

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Samoa Observatory](#)**

The Samoa Observatory is one of five baseline observatories supported by NOAA's Climate Observations and Analysis Program and operated by the NOAA Research, Earth System Research Laboratory, located in Boulder, CO. The observatories are part of a global network of observatories monitoring atmospheric constituents that cause climate change and depletion of the ozone layer. The Samoa Observatory was established in 1974 and is located on the northeastern tip of Tutuila Island, on a ridge overlooking the South Pacific Ocean. It maintains monitoring programs in greenhouse and other trace gases, atmospheric aerosols, solar radiation variability and meteorological parameters.

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Stratospheric Aerosol Lidar Measurements](#)**

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) operates three stratospheric lidar systems to measure atmospheric aerosol profiles. The Samoa system went online in 2004. Stratospheric lidar systems measure aerosol light for monitoring stratospheric aerosols from volcanic origins. Volcanic aerosols in the stratosphere from future eruptions could act as catalysts for large scale stratospheric ozone depletions until anthropogenic stratospheric halocarbon concentrations decrease to lower levels by mid-century. These ongoing observations are important for monitoring the recovery of the stratospheric ozone layer, which protects us from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

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NOAA *In Your State* is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line or Staff Office listed.

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**NOAA**

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

